

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06110 141710Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W
-----150306Z 073934 /15

R 141545Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3984
INFO AMCONSUT FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6110

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IT, US
SUBJECT: ITALIAN NEWS MAGAZINE ACCUSES THE CIA OF PLANNING STUDENT
UPRISINGS IN BOLOGNA

1. THE COVER STORY OF THE APRIL 20 ISSUE OF THE PCI-ORIENTED
ITALIAN NEWS WEEKLY GIORNI IS AN EXPOSE WHICH ACCUSES THE
AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OF ORGANIZING AND
FINANCING THE MARCH STUDENT DISTURBANCES IN BOLOGNA. CITING
"AN AMERICAN SOURCE CLOSE TO THE NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
OF WASHINGTON", THE AUTHOR, GUIDO CAPPATO, STATES THAT THE
CIA BEGAN PLANNING THE "BOLOGNA COUP" TWO YEARS AGO.
CAPPATO MAINTAINS THAT THE CIA FUNDED AN ULTRA-LEFT GROUP
CALLED "WORKER AUTONOMY" AND INFILTRATED "STUDENT AGENTS"
INTO ITALY THROUGH OVERSEAS STUDY PROGRAMS OF JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY WHO ACTED AS FUNNELS FOR ARMS AND CONTACT POINTS
WITH THE US EMBASSY IN ROME.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE PURPOSE OF THE EFFORT
WAS TO ATTACK THE PCI FROM THE LEFT AND TO PROVOKE
EVENTUALLY A STUDENT REBELLION ON THE COMMUNISTS HOME
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PAGE 02 ROME 06110 141710Z

GROUND IN BOLOGNA, "A CITY WHICH HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN
TOUCHED BY DISORDERS". HE ADDS THAT THE PEOPLE OF
BOLOGNA RESPONDED TO THE PROVOCATION WITH DIGNITY AND
FIRMNESS AND DEFEATED THE "COUP". CAPPATO CHARGES THE
CIA WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANNED COUP ATTEMPTS AND
POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN ITALY OVER THE YEARS. HE ASSERTS
THAT THIS INFORMATION HAS SURFACED BECAUSE OF A CON-

FUSED INTERNL STRUGGLE WITHIN THE CIA IN WHICH ONE OF THE FACTIONS IS LEAKING INFORMATION THROUGH THE NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN ORDER TO EMBARRASS ITS RIVALS WITHIN THE GENCY. CAPPATO CLAIMS THAT OIORNI HAS ACCESS TO LINES OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE US EMBASSY IN ROME AND THEITALIAN INTERIOR MINISTRY AND ENDS THE ARTICLE WITH THE STATEMENT, "WE ARE VERIFYING AN SCRUTINIZING ONE BY ONE THE NOTICES AND INDISCRETIONS WHICH ARE "FLYING" THESE DAYS FROM THE OFFICES OF THE EMBASSY OF THE USA IN ROME". THE ARTICLE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A PICTURE OF EX-US AMBASSADOR JOHN VOLPE WITH A CAPTION THAT READ IN PART, DURING HIS STAY IN OUR COUNTY HE AMPLY MERITED THE FAITH OF THE HEADQUARTERS IN LANGLEY." AMBESSADOR VOLPE WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE TEXT OF THE ARTICLE.

3. COMMENT. THE EDITOR OF GIORNI, DAVIDE LAJOLO, WAS A MEMBER OF THE PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNTIL 1975. HE WAS NOTRE-ELECTED,PRESUMABLE BECAUSE OF HIS FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE PARTY LINE ON CERTAIN ISSUES. WHILE GIORNI IS PCI - ORIENTED, THIS ARTICLE DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT ATTITUDES HELD BY THE PARTY LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, ITS APPERANCE IS FUTHER DEMONSTRATION THAT AT LEAST A PORTION OF THE PARTY DOES NOT SHARE THE "OFFICIAL LINE" REGARDING THE UNITED STATES. WE DO NOT PLAN TO ISSUE ANY REPLY TO THE ARTICLE AS THIS WOULD ONLY DRAW ATTENTION TO IT. IF ASKED FOR COMMENT, WE INTEND TO REPLY THAT THE NUMBER AND EXTENT OF THE ARTICLE'S INACCURACIES IS SO GREAT THAT WE FEEL IT DOES CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ROME 06110 141710Z

NOT CONSTITUTE SERIOUS JOURNALISM AND THEREFORE DOES NOT MERIT A RESPONSE.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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